SWAMI RAMANAND TEERTH MARATHWADA UNIVERSITY, NANDED

Synopsis for the proposed Ph.D. Thesis entitled

A Critical Inquiry into 21st century Select Feminist Texts (2000-2022)

For the Award of Ph.D.in English

Under the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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Introduction:-

The feminist school of thought has a belief in the social, political, economical and cultural equality of gender. It is concerned about the problems and opportunities of women. Since, ages women have been suppressed, subjugated and treated inferior. There are tremendous of issues like political rights, social freedom, individual autonomy, economic independence, workplace equality, education, sexual freedom, reproductive issues etc. which provoked the movement called Feminism.

Initially a western phenomenon but now Feminism has flourished worldwide. The term feminism was coined in 1837 by the French Philosopher and Radical Social Utopian thinker Charles Fourier and was first used in English in 1980. The English word Feminism is divided from the French word "Feminin" which is taken from the latin word "Femina" Meaning "Women". So, Feminism is belief in and advocacy of the political, economic and social equality of the sexes expressed especially through organized activity on behalf of women's rights and interests (Merriam – Webster). And a person who believes in a feminism, and tries to achieve change that helps women to get equal opportunities and treatment. (Cambridge English Dictionary). Various Philosophers and Thinkers have divided feminism into three waves.

The true origin of feminism can be seen in the first wave of feminism. Its roots can be found in the United States and the United Kingdom at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. The basic foundation of this wave is in the Seneca falls convention 1848 in which 300 women and men raised their voices for equality. Lucretia Moth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Martha Wright, Mary Ann McClintock, Jane Hunt etc. were participated in it. Elizabeth Cady Stanton was the leader. This movement is known as the suffrage movement. It emphasized women's property rights and equal contracts. This movement was fully opposed to chattel marriage. And they fought to give different opportunities for woman. In this way, 1918, the

Representation of the people act gave some women the right to vote. But finally in 1928, the Right to vote was granted to every woman at the age of 21 with the voting right. Mary Wollstonecraft's a vindication of rights of women 1742 is considered to be the first prominent book of feminism. in which Wollstonecraft argues that women are not inferior by birth but they are weak due to lack of education. Intellectually every male and female equal by nature So, they should be given equality in education, work and political level.

Second wave feminism is the continuation of first wave feminism. It began from 1960 until the early 1990s.It has backlash of second-world war. So, there larger issues were remain though women got political and voting rights. It didn't bring socio-cultural equality. The main Focus of second wave feminism were on sisterhood.it yolks about all unresolved aspects of social oppression that were never developed through the achievement of economic equality. Physical oppressions are still there. Women bodies are to be sites of domestic and sexual violence. Second wave feminism failed due to unsupportive behaviour of government. Simone de Beauvoir and Betty Freudian were the Feminist representatives of the second wave feminism.

Third wave feminism is a term coined by Rebecca Walker in her book "Becoming the Third Wave" in 1992. It opposes both first and second wave feminism for restricted to issue of upper white, middle class, heterosexual, women of color but ignored lower classes and races of women.it mainly explained about the being free from lives burden as a woman. Third wave emphasized on sex and sexuality.

The Feminist theory is a detailed, critical and perceptive method in which the injustice of women is uprooted. It is related to different fields like politics, sociology, economy, media studies, geography, philosophy, psychology etc. The main essence is that Feminist Theory fights for equality which is based on gender discrimination. Main concern of feminist Theory is to liberate women. First, Feminist theorists review the causes of

Women low status, then its consequences and finally the treatment given to it. The main ideas of feminist theory are political rights, social freedom, individual autonomy, economic independence, workplace equality, education, sexual freedom, reproductive rights etc. Feminism and Feminist, aroused in English language at 1890.Feminism is a movement which fought for discrimination of sexes and Feminist is a person who beliefs in feminism. There are different kinds of Feminist theories such as Liberal Feminism, Marxist Feminism and Radical Feminism.

With the above feminist theoretical perspective, the proposed Research Work tries to study the select Non – Fiction Prose in contemporary scenario. The Research work aims at understanding the feminism in 21st century. It is an attempt to establish critical and analytical survey of Feminism to establish and developing women as human being. The following Non – Fiction Prose Texts are selected for the study:

1. *Seeing Like a Feminist* – Nivedita Menon (2012).
2. *Bad Feminist* – Roxane Gay (2014).
3. *How to be a Woman* – Catlin Moran (2011).
4. *Feminasty: The Complicated Woman's Guide to Surviving the Patriarchy Without Drinking Herself to Death* – Erin Gibson
5. *Vagina: A New Biography* – Naomi Wolf (2012).
6. *Hood Feminism* – Mikki Kendall (2020).
7. *We Should All BE Feminist* – Chimamanda Adichie (2014).
8. *Men Explain Things to Me* – Rebecca Solnit (2014).
9. *100 Nasty Women of History* – Hannah Jewell (2017).
10. *Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls* – E. Favilli and Cavalli (2016).
11. *Vagina Bible* – Jan Gunter (2019).
12. *Feminism is for Everybody* – Gloria Jean Watkins (2000).

Objectives :-

1. To survey the field of feminism with regards to various select Non – Fictional Prose texts.
2. To understand Feminism in the context of present scenario as represented in select texts.
3. To carry out a critical analysis for bringing out the technical and theoretical aspects contained in the select non-fiction text.

Hypothesis :-

A close scrutiny of the major non- fiction prose texts written with a feminist point of view would lead to a better understanding of the presents status of Feminism and its future possibilities .

Research Methodology:-

Library research method will used to carry out this research because there is no need for field work.

Various, diaries, journals, newspapers, video footages, letters, web materials, documents, interviews, reports etc will be used in designing this research work.

Interpretative and analytical method will be used during the study of selected non-fiction texts.

References and work citation will be made as per the guidelines of

MLA(9th)edition.

Review of Literature:-

The Research Work is completely built on the comprehensive and analytical study of previous related research topics. The literature review establishes familiarity and understanding with books, articles and internet resources that has close connection with the research topic. Primary concern of this research work is to read the select texts in-depth and evaluate and critical study through the lens of feminism. It understands the Concept of feminism, Feminist Theory in contemporary society. To gain the intended aim various books in literature have been used as secondary sources.

"*The Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theory*" by Lisa Jane Disch provides a rich overview of the analytical framework and theoretical concepts that it has developed to analyze the known world .

"*The Introduction to Feminism*" by Lorna Finlason focuses on the critical introduction to theory and practice of feminism for new generation of the students.

"*The Bloomsbury Handbook of 21st Century Feminist Theory*" by Robin Truth Goodman is an essential overview of current feminist thinking future direction for scholarship, debate and activism.

"*Gender*, *Feminism and Critical Realism*: *Exchange*, *challenges*, *Synergies*" by Lena Gunnarsson argues that critical realism is able to survey as a fruitful-resources for carving out new paths for feminist theorizing and research.

"*Contemporary Feminism and Women's Short Stories* " by Emma Young offers a wide ranging survey of contemporary women's short stories and introduces a new way of theorising feminism in the genre through the concept of the moment.

"*The Feminism Book*: *Big Ideas Simply Explained*" by DK, Lucy Mangan examines the ideas that underpin feminist thought through critical figures, from Simone de Beauvoir to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

Apart from this various internet sources, journals, articles and websites have been referred for a critical survey of contemporary select Non – Fiction Feminist books.

Plan of Research:-

The proposed research work will constitute the following chapter scheme
Chapter1. Feminist Literary tradition: History and Development. Chapter 2. Feminist critical theory: Principles and technics Chapter 3. Critique of select Feminist text.

Chapter 4. Conclusion.

A Select Bibliography

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